

**In the Claims**

Please cancel Claims 1-20 and 29-33, and amend Claims 21, 24 and 25, and add Claims 34-38 as follows.

1      1. (Cancelled).

1      2. (Cancelled) .

1      3. (Cancelled) .

1      4. (Cancelled) .

1      5. (Cancelled) .

1      6. (Cancelled) .

1      7. (Cancelled) .

1      8. (Cancelled) .

1      9. (Cancelled) .

1      10. (Cancelled) .

1      11. (Cancelled) .

1      12. (Cancelled) .

1      13. (Cancelled) .

1      14. (Cancelled) .

1      15. (Cancelled) .

1      16. (Cancelled) .

1      17. (Cancelled) .

1      18. (Cancelled) .

1      19. (Cancelled) .

1      20. (Cancelled) .

1 21. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of Claim 1;~~ A device, for quantitatively collecting, preserving  
2 and transporting a specimen of material for later analysis, which comprises:

3 a vessel having a first closed end defining at least one sealed access port, a second open end  
4 opposite said first end;

5 a stopper shaped and dimensioned to close said open end;

6 a cover releasably occluding said sealed access port; and,

7 wherein said sealed access port is releasably sealed by a removable and replaceable plug.

1 22. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 21, wherein said plug is threaded to releasably  
2 engage said first closed end having cooperative threads.

1 23. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 21, wherein said plug comprises a machine  
2 graspable outer surface.

1 24. (Currently Amended) The device of ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 23, wherein said machine graspable outer  
2 surface comprises a faceted surface.

1 25. (Currently Amended) The device of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 21, wherein said vessel has a tapered outer  
2 surface.

1 26. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 25, wherein said tapered outer surface is oriented  
2 to create a first axially medial surface portion having a narrower axial cross-section than a second

3 axially medial surface portion.

1 27. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 26, wherein said second axially medial surface  
2 portion is located closer to said first closed end than said first axially medial surface portion.

1 28. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 25, wherein said tapered outer surface has a  
2 substantially frustro-conical shape.

1 29. (Cancelled).

1 30. (Cancelled).

1 31. (Cancelled).

1 32. (Cancelled).

1 33. (Cancelled).

1 34. (New) The device of Claim 21, wherein said sealed access port comprises an end-breakable  
2 hollow nib.

1 35. (New) The device of Claim 34, which further comprises a cover shaped and dimensioned to cap

2      said closed end and nib.

1      36. (New) The device of Claim 21, wherein the open end of said vessel and said cover have  
2      cooperating screw threads.

1      37. (New) The device of Claim 21 which further comprises an outer transport capsule sized and  
2      shaped to fully enclose said vessel, stopper, and cover.

1      38. (New) The device of Claim 21, which further comprises an amount of desiccant located in  
2      said vessel.